

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-01 MC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 R

DRAFTED BY 10/29/74 EXT 28202

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P 292136Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SN, RP

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE SALE OF M-16 RIFLES TO PHILIPPINES

REF: A. MANILA 12122 B. MANILA 12159 C. SINGAPORE 4136

D. SINGAPORE 4161 E. SINGAPORE 4324 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING AS APPROPRIATE IN DIS-
CUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH GOS.

2. DEPARTMENT'S LETTER OF APPROVAL FOR COLT/GOS M-16
RIFLE FACILITY AGREEMENT WAS GRANTED ON MARCH 26, 1969.
LETTER STIPULATED GOS MUST OBTAIN PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL
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OF USG TO EXPORT RIFLES FROM SINGAPORE. AGREEMENT AS

APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT AND SIGNED BY GOS AND COLT FURTHER
ENJOINS GOS NOT TO SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER RIFLES.

3. REFERENCE MESSAGES SEEM TO CLEARLY ESTABLISH GOS
VIOLATION OF 1969 AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, REPORTING FROM
SINGAPORE STRONGLY SUGGESTS RESPONSIBLE GOS OFFICIALS
PROBABLY WELL AWARE THAT ADVANCE US APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR
THIS TRANSACTION, BUT ELECTED TO PROCEED WITHOUT IT FOR
REASONS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US.

4. USG TAKES VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF GOS BEHAVIOR IN THIS
CASE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR MOTIVES. IN VIEW CONTINUING
DEVELOPMENT OF SINGAPORE'S MILITARY INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY,

BASED IN PART ON U.S. LICENSING, AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE
AN INCREASING GOS TENDENCY TOWARDS THIRD COUNTRY SALES
EFFORTS, THERE IS PROSPECT OF FURTHER CONFLICTS WITH US
ARMS SALES CONTROLS. WE ARE CONFIDENT GOS WOULD NOT WANT
TO JEOPARDIZE PRESENT COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US
IN MILITARY FIELD, WHICH IS ALSO BENEFICIAL TO US. THERE-
FORE, WE BELIEVE THAT HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION WITH GOS ON
THIS MATTER IS IN ORDER.

5. USG HAS POWER TO INVOKE VARIOUS SANCTIONS IN SUCH
CASES. LICENSE UNDER WHICH RIFLES ARE PRODUCED COULD BE
REVOKED, EITHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY. FAILURE TO
OBTAIN ADVANCE USG APPROVAL WHERE REQUIRED BY TERMS
OF LICENSE COULD ALSO AFFECT ISSUANCE OF FUTURE LICENSES
IN CONNECTION WITH EXPORT OF US MUNITIONS LIST ITEMS TO
GOS.

6. SINCE THIS IS FIRST CLEAR INSTANCE OF GOS VIOLATION
OF THIS SORT, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE INFORMING GOS THAT WE
VIEW THIS VIOLATION SERIOUSLY, FIRMLY REMINDING THEM OF
THEIR CONTINUING OBLIGATION UNDER THE 1969 AGREEMENT TO
OBTAIN ADVANCE USG APPROVAL IN WRITING FOR EXPORT OF
RIFLES, AND STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF GOS COMPLIANCE RE-
GARDING FUTURE TRANSACTIONS, SHOULD PROBABLY SUFFICE.

7. LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION LEVEL AT WHICH SUBJECT
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SHOULD BE RAISED WITH GOS. EMBASSY SUGGESTION REF E THAT
IT BE TAKEN UP DIRECTLY WITH DR. GOH SEEMS ESPECIALLY
APPROPRIATE IN VIEW MAJOR ROLE GOH APPARENTLY HAD IN THE
SALE.

8. FYI - INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH COLT REPRESENTATIVES
IN WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT COMPANY HAD CAPABILITY OF
SUPPLYING M-16 RIFLES TO PHILIPPINES WITHIN TIME DESIRED

BY GOP. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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